

REPORT ON A SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL STANDARDS HARMONISATION TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES 26 JULY 2002 – 11 AUGUST 2002, by Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy), Namibia.

1. BACKGROUND

This Report is a culmination of activities started following a meeting on 12 March 2002 which was held at the Ministry of Trade and Industry between Ministry officials and a delegation from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). At the 12 March meeting, the following were present:

T Andima, MTI Deputy Director – Internal Trade: Registrar of Companies, Close Corporation, Patents, Trade Marks and Industrial Designs;

R A Kaakunga, MTI Deputy Director – Internal Trade: Weights, Measures and Standards;

Jennifer L Maurer – Professional Development Programme, Foreign Agricultural Service of the USDA International Co-operation and Development Food Industries Division;

Don Evans – International Training Specialist: Cochran Fellowship Programme of the USDA, International Co-operation and Development Food Industries Division;

Lawrence F Barbieri – Food Aid Compassion;

Michael Eustrom, Assistant Chairman Board of Appeals and Review of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service Technical Services Division.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The meeting was arranged by the US Embassy in Windhoek to enable a visiting delegation of the US Department of Agriculture to meet various standardisers in Namibia and to introduce plans initiated by the USDA to carry out an integrated programme of activities that are supportive of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The programme, which is funded by the USAID and USDA Cochran Fellowship Programme is specially directed at facilitating regional, interregional and international trade. The activities are focussed on forging public and private partnerships in a selected four Southern African Countries that will culminate in recommended policy changes to increase their countries' "openness" in trade and investment in agricultural products.

1.2. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Firstly, the mission from the US travelled to the participating countries of Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia to assess, accurately, the status quo of the transportation and agricultural sectors and to design the most appropriate technical assistance activities. The objectives of the assessment are:

- to identify the predominant transportation and agricultural standards constraints that inhibit trade in the region;
- to propose appropriate technical assistance activities that would assist the region in overcoming such constraints; and,
- to identify key players in the transportation and agricultural standards sectors and recommend potential participants.

1.3 TRAINING IN REGIONAL STANDARDS HARMONISATION

According to the visiting delegation, a second proposed activity consists of a two weeks training in the US for a team of twelve Southern African agricultural standards officials. The **three representatives from each** of the participating countries will be selected from the Bureau of Standards and Ministries of Agriculture of Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa and may include, from each country, one official from the standards writing unit, a standards compliance (enforcement?) officer, a plant/ animal quarantine officer and a private sector representative.

1.4 TRAINING IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

The third proposed activity consists of a two week training in the US for a team of twelve Southern African transportation specialists. The team may include, from each country, mid-level managers, who are likely to influence policy over the next decade, from the rail, port, and customs communities, as well as the private sector. The training will consist of:

- meetings with key US transportation policy makers (USDA/AMS, DOT);
- visits to selected North American transportation facilities, including ports, railroads, road authorities long-haul transporters (truck and rail), customs operations, freight forwarding agents, and commuter airlines; and,
- discussions with officials regarding the regionalisation of transportation.

1.5 IN-COUNTRY WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Carrying out of a series of eight in-country workshops to disseminate lessons learned from the US visits and to address relevant technical issues through public – private partnerships.

1.6 STANDARDS AND TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP IN PRETORIA

A two day workshop will be held in Pretoria for both teams, and political leadership and other specially targeted individuals will be convened after the in-house workshops to develop a strategic plan and collaborate on policy reform issues. The main focus is the formation of a large economic trading area within both SADC and the Economic Commission for Eastern and Southern African States (COMESA) capable of overcoming, collectively, some of the trading barriers that are faced by them as individual states.

1.7 BRIEFINGS AT THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The delegation was briefed of the current progress on standardisation in Namibia and in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It was pointed out to the team that, in Namibia, the standards writing unit is hosted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry while the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development administers standards on agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and the WTO sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Standards related to food safety are administered by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and those on the quality, wholesomeness and food safety of fish and fishery products are administered by the Ministry of Trade and Industry which has appointed the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) as the official technical inspection and certification body for all fish and fishery products earmarked for the export markets.

1.8 HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS IN THE SADC REGION

a) The US team was also briefed of the status of harmonisation of standards and technical regulations in the entire SADC region and was informed that in order to remove barriers for industrial and trade expansion in the SADC family of nations, the SADC Industry and Trade Committee of Ministers approved a programme on Standardisation, Quality Assurance and Metrology (SQAM) in 1987 and set up an Expert Group to oversee the implementation of that programme.

b) The SQAM programme is also being implemented to facilitate the realisation of a Free Trade area envisaged for the region under the provisions of the SADC Protocol on Trade which was signed in August 1996 and entered into force after it was ratified by a two thirds of the SADC Member States.

c) The SQAM Experts Group (SQAMEG) hold annual meetings in the region to discuss several issues including harmonisation of standards and technical regulations. Following such meetings, the region opted to adopt the so-called new approach of the European Union. The new approach is based, essentially, on the understanding that harmonisation of technical regulations in the region should be limited to the adoption by Members States of laws that are in conformity with the SADC Treaty and which laws provide for essential safety requirements or other requirements, in the general interests of the people and Member States of SADC, with which products put on the market must conform.

d) With regards to standards, the SQAM Programme enjoins SADC Members States harmonise their standards, because there would be a presumption that products

produced in conformity with harmonised standards conform to the essential requirements established by the SADC Treaty and as result should enjoy free movement throughout the SADC region.

1.9 BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED USDA PROGRAMME

a) It was stressed at the meeting at MTI that the envisaged USDA initiated programme would certainly be beneficial not only for the selected participating countries but also for the entire SADC area.

b) The MTI representatives promised to hold further consultations nationally in order to identify the three individuals who may be selected for inclusion in the team of twelve Southern African standards officials for the first two weeks training in the US. That first training visit might include:

- meetings with US agricultural and national standards agencies (FGSIS, APHIS, FDA, FSIS, AMS, ANSI etc.);
- visits to selected ports and border crossings to see the standards in operation; and,
- discussions with trade policy officials in Washington D.C. (USDA and USTR) about the WTO TBT and sanitary and phytosanitary agreements etc.

2. ACTIVITIES (VISIT TO THE USA)

A delegation of three representatives from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa each from the standards writing bodies; standards compliance/enforcement officers; a plant/animal quarantine officers or a private sector representatives arrived in the United States on Saturday 27 July 2002 and the following Monday started with the programme.

2.1 Week I – Regulatory/Policy

Day 1

2002/07/29

Dr Frank Fender – Director of Food Industry in the USDA welcomed the visitors and stressed that the Programme was intended to be mutually beneficial to both the USA and the involved SADC countries. It was also stressed that the reason why most SADC countries do not fully benefit from trading opportunities with the USA was the fact that the pest risk assessments (PRAs) were often not well prepared and, consequently, contribute to undue prolongation of the approval process for the entry of products into the US market. That process takes up to a year.

Don Evans an International Training Specialist of the Cochran Fellowship Programme explained training possibilities in the USA for the year 2003 and thereon. The meeting on Day 1 was co-ordinated by Nancy Rosenshine from the Aid Marketing Service (AMS) and concentrated on mutual introductions by the delegates from the participating countries and representatives of the USDA used the occasion to provide an overall oversight of the national

operations of the USDA in preparation for several on side visits where the theory of the first week could be tested.

The participants wanted, in particular to get a better information on genetically modified organisms (GMO products. Further more, the participants briefed each other on each country's agricultural exports and standards applied to such exports.

Cheri L Emery: Marketing specialist-Standardisation Section, USDA:

The group was informed that when considering comments on draft standards, the unit evaluates and checks as to whether the comments have an overall benefit nationally or whether the comments are designed to benefit the commentator alone. Next, standards are sent to a legal Department be for they are place in the Federal register.

Dorian A La Fond: International Standards Coordinator- Fruits and Vegetable Programmes:

Mr La Fond introduced himself and informed the meeting that his Unit deals with products imported into the United States from Southern Africa. The US does not use international standards but only US market specific standards developed since 1914 and which simply states as to whether the product "is damaged" or "is not damaged". The first US Standard for beef was developed since 1916 and was eventually adopted in 1926. The characteristics of each category are elaborated in the Guidelines. The process is self-regulatory.

Larry R Meadows: Chief AMS/Life-stock and seed Programmes:

The topmost grade in the US is called USDA Prime (35%) followed by USDA Choice (55%); USDA Standard 6% - not graded and Select (4%). It was noted that beef grades do not explain all of the variation in beef palatability or predicted yield of the cuts and is done at slaughter points and in 1987 only SELECT was graded because of its popularity among customers. The Department also uses a "third party system" to create confidence to buyers and sellers.

During chilling for 24 to 48 hours, the product is sprayed with chloride to deter bacterial growth. From September 2002 a voluntary country of origin labelling will be introduced but in three years time all cattle not born and bred in the US must have their country of origin clearly identified to the consumer. For every animal slaughtered, industry contributes US\$1.00 for research and marketing of bee. In the light of the First Amendment the standardisation process takes a long time starting with Publication of the draft US Standard followed by Commends. Once 70% or more of the comments indicate acceptance, the standard is published as a USA draft Standard.

The key requirement which every prospective exporter to the US has to meet is the concept of “EQUIVALENCY” i.e. that all inspections and testing systems in the country that wishes to export its products to the US must be equivalent to those of the US. The underlying principle for equivalency is not so much that technical regulations in all US trading partners are identical as they are designed to achieve similar objectives.

Day 2

(2002/07/30)

Byron E Reilly: Grain Marketing Specialist of the USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) Grain Inspection Service, Office of International Affairs.

The following E-mail was provided: Byron.E.Reilly@usda.gov;
Website: www.usda.gov/gipsa .

Further information on marketing, inspection and marketing of grain into the US from the above-mentioned Website. Such information includes:

- Organisational information and Directories;
- Official US Standards for grain, rice, beans, peas and lentils;
- Programmes and services;
- Annual Report;
- Official Grain Inspection and Weighing Services providers;
- Laws, regulations, standards and Directives;
- News, information and publications governed by two Acts of Congress e.g. the United States Grain Standards Act, 1976 as amended and regulations thereunder; and, the Agricultural Marketing Act, 1946 and regulations thereunder i.e. under part 68 thereof. Latter Act is permissive and provides for voluntary inspections and covers a lot of products.

Marianne Plaus – Chief Marketing Analysis and Standards Branch, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration of the USDA.

E-mail: Marienne.Plaus@usda.gov

The **mission** of the Grain Programme is to facilitate marketing of US grain and oil seeds for the US. Its **functions** are to establish US state for grain development analytical methods, provide official inspection and weighing system network of Federal, State etc.

The standards for grain:

- identify the factors for developing US standards for grain;
- provide definitions of the factors and principles governing the application of standards. The grades set parameters.

The standards are needed to:

- to facilitate trade;
- facilitate information exchange;
- facilitate price value revelations.

How are the standards developed?

Standards should be reviewed every 5 years but in practice, standards are reviewed continuously, all the time based on public comment (after 60 days) but not prescribed by government. It was emphasised always to seek and obtain information on developments in (other) trading partners' standards and technical requirements. When evaluating Public Comments, it appears that the contents of the comments provide a better guide.

The WTO requires in the IPPC Standards that members should, on request, make available the rationale for phytosanitary requirements. Remember that the SPS measures should comply with the WTO principle of “minimal impact” i.e. They must be the least restrictive measures available which result in the minimum impediment to the international movement of people, commodities and conveyances. In the end, it is a balancing act.

The grain seeds canola produce the “Yellow maize”. Importers [of US grains] are urged to comment on US standards. On the Biotech debate, it was advised to check the GIPSA Website for GMOs.

Byron E. Reilly (Continued):

- Quality Control Programme –
Board of Appeals and Reviews
Training for Quality Control personnel is also provided.

On the job training:

1-3yrs: Agricultural Commodity Aide

1-2yrs: Technician

1-2yrs; Grader

GISA has an Early Alert Programme (EAP).

The Five Basic Functions performed by GIPSA are:

- Stowage examination'
- Weighing;
- Sampling
- Inspections; and
- Certification.

Samples are taken every hour.

Mary Stanley, Food Technologist Import and Export Section International Policy Staff: “Importing Meat and poultry to the US, USDA.

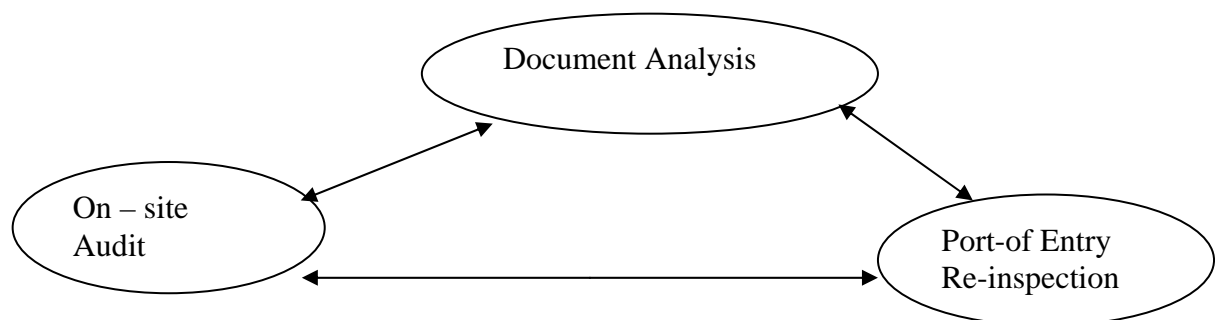
E-mail: mary.stanley@usda.gov

Website: www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/op/Laws_Regs.htm (for the Laws).

All meat and poultry must meet all the safety standards of 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200 applied by the FSIS. The key is EQUIVALENCE i.e. the use of different sanitary measures to achieve the same level of protection. In terms of the WTO Agreement, each member must notify the WTO of its EQUIVALENCE determination. The FSIS implemented EQUIVALENCE in 1995 amendment to USDA meat and poultry inspection regulations. In the US, the following Laws and Regulations apply as to EQUIVALENCE:

- ❖ Federal Meat Inspection Act
- ❖ Poultry Products Inspection Act as Amended. The Law had to be amended to be exactly the same as the SPS measures Agreement of the WTO.

The US FSIS requests documents and completed questionnaire. Next, they conduct Document Analysis. Then, they carry out on site audit in the trading partner’s country and conduct Port-of Entry Re-inspection see the EQUIVALENCE TRIAD below:



In the 2001, the US imported 3.8 billion pounds of meat and poultry from 30 eligible foreign countries. Half of this import was from Canada. However, Meat and Poultry shipments are considered restricted merchandise.

For the IMPORT Manual see www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/op/IIM/TOCIIM.htm.

Micro-biological controls at Port of Entry Re-inspection are confined to ready-to-eat products not raw products, and are aimed at checking for:

Listeria monocytogenes
 Salmonella
 Escherichia coli 0157: H7 (E – coli)
 Staphylococcal aureus enterotoxin.

Dr. Robert Post, Staff Director Liberating and consumer Protection Staff, USDA Food Safety and Inspection.

E-mail: Robert.post@usda.gov

Website: www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/lare/ see the MOU between FSIS of the USDA, and the US FDA (see package “green” page et.seg)

Meat Products Regulations - 9 CFR 317.2/381 subpart N

Up to 8 required features covering:

- Product Name
- Inspection legend and estimated number
- Handling statement
- Net weight statement
- Ingredients statement
- Address line
- Nutrition facts
- Safe handling ,and,
- Instructions.

Dr. Pharat Patel Veterinary Medical officer, USDA FSIS

E – mails bharat.patel@fsis.usda.gov.

Website: www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/background/bkbeyond.htm ; or, [www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/fr/haccp rule.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/fr/haccp%20rule.htm)

Jennifer K. Webb, Food Technologist, USDA:

HACCP was phased-in two to three years ago.

NB.: The FSIS of the USDA is the agency responsible for ensuring the safety, wholesomeness, and accurate labelling of meat, poultry and egg products. On 25 July 1996, the FSIS issued its landmark rule, Pathogen Reduction HACCP systems. The US requires that any WTO member which imports poultry products in the US must implement the HACCP system. Again, this is also based on the principle of EQUIVALENCY.

NB. Equivalence “should not be arbitrary but should be science based”.

Charles E. Williams (Chuck), Programme Analyst Tammy O’Conner, Programme Analyst Regulations and Directives Staff.

E –mail: charles.Williams@fsis.usda.gov.

The Regulatory Process:

The Federal Register Act 1935 (July 26) is published everyday as a central location for filing documents for public inspection. Administrative Procedure Act was passed

in 1946. No Federal Rule could be enforced unless published in the Fed Register. The Act was passed to add procedural requirements to ensure due process i.e. fairness:

Rules can't be enforced unless published in the federal Register; Rules can't be effective until 30 days after publication also to ensure public participation i.e. notice and comment rulemaking. This requires that Agencies must give notice of proposed rules; must take public comments and respond in final rule; must state the legal basis and purpose of their action. See the Case law under the APA p.2. [Compare the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with Namibia Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements etc.]. NEPA expressly provides that an Environmental Impact Statement is required for all major rulemakings affecting the quality of human environment. Compare, also, with the Information Quality Act, 2000 which requires that Agencies maximise quality, utility, objectivity and integrity of scientific, statistical, financial and other information.

The FSIS derives its jurisdiction to make Regulations from the following:

- Federal Meat Inspection Act
- Poultry Products Inspection Act
- Egg Products Inspection Act
- Agricultural Marketing Act

NB. Executive Order 12 866 Regulatory Flexibility Act states that Regulation must be the last resort to solving a problem.

- i. APA
- ii. Executive Order 12 866 of September 30, 1993, "Regulatory Planning and Review" issued by the Office of Management and Budget in the Office of the President (OMB) states that:
 - agencies must notify OMB of all intended regulatory actions
 - OMB shall review actions designated "significant", and "economically significant"
 - Agencies must assess the costs and benefits and issue the rules only when the benefits outweigh the costs
 - Requires a public comment period of at least 60 days
 - Agencies must consult with officials of state, local and tribal government.
 - Agencies must base their regulations on the best reasonably available scientific, economic, technical and other information (see Elna Hunters' Handouts)

Day 3

2002/07/31

Visit to the USDA Animal and Plant Health
Inspection service, Riverdale, Maryland.

Linda Small, Programme Director, International Service Representative for Europe/
Africa / Russia / Near East Region Contact Points.

E-Mail: Linda.small@aphis.usda.gov

The delegation was advised to contact the APHIS representative in Southern Africa at the following address:

Ms. Cheryl French, APHIS Attaché
American Embassy
8777 Pretorius Street
Arcadia, Pretoria 0-83
RSA
Tel: 0027 – 12 342 1048 ext 3010

Wimer E Snell, Issues Director Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand

E-Mail; e.suell@aphis.usda.gov

Discussions:

Any plant importation into the USA requires a Permit. Most products are already Enterable i.e. permissible to enter. If a product is not “Enterable” than a Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) is necessary. In Namibia, there is apparently only one entomologist (?) who works in a museum and but not in the field. There is no single pathologist in the country. Problem of access of Namibia grapes, the country does not identify the pests recurrent in Namibia grapes. In order for the USDA APHIS to approve entrance of Namibian plants a path way initiated pest risk assessment information needs to be supplied.

Remember that there is no such a thing as a zero risk. Thus, it is necessary to have information, also, if the volume, quantity and weight expected. The Regulation governing imports of animal plants into the US is the FCFR 319 but the Regulation is too large and too legalistic to be understood by a non lawyer. Mr. Snell says that even with his 30 years experience in the APHIS field, the Regulation is still headache.

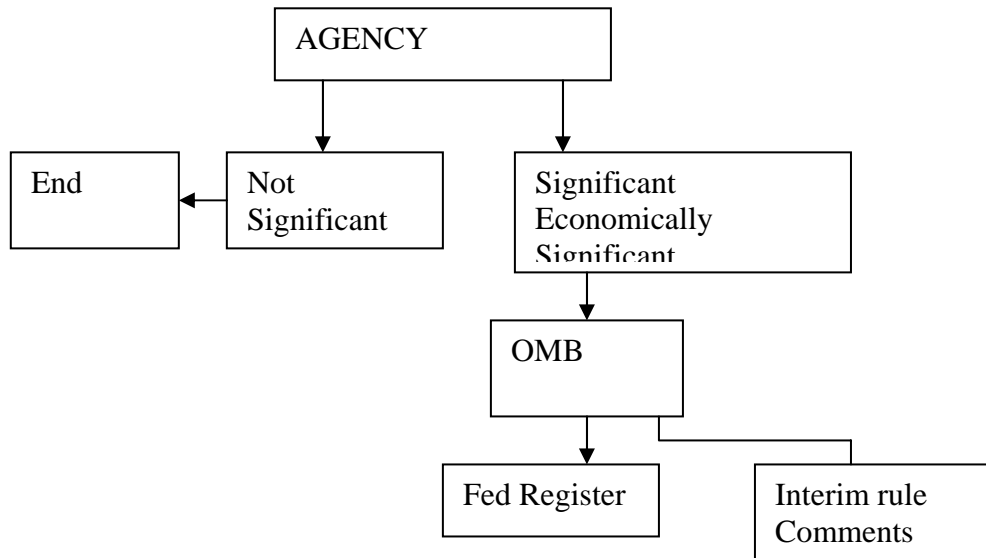
He emphasised that the time span taken for approvals is lengthy. It takes a minimum of two years from the time of making access request to approval. Compare this with approvals for AGOA. AGOA deals with tariff levels but most importantly it is necessary to verify the products which are already enterable. For any plant or animal product, which is not enterable, a PRA must be carried out.

Ms. Elna Hunter, Regulatory Co-ordination.

E-mail: Elna.B.Hunter@aphis.usda.gov

The regulatory process is government-wide determined and an agency may issue rules¹ only within the scope of its authorising legislation. The principal requirements for rule making are set by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) 5 U.S.C.551 et. seq. and the process may be illustrated as follows:

¹ Under US law, a rule is any requirement of general applicability and future effect.



Edward V Podleckis, Ph.D, Plant Virologist.

E-mail: Edward.v.podleckis@usda.gov

On PRA process as it pertains to commodities:

The pest risk analysis (PRA) is based on international standard IPPC/FAO, 1996 and the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Pest, Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests, Publication No. 11, IPPC/FAO 2001.

PRA in Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ):

Remember that the commodity itself might pose a risk of being a weed. Thus, also determine the “weediness” of the commodity.

Qualitative vs Quantitative:

The plant protection quarantine (PPQ) conducts PRA at two levels i.e. qualitative and quantitative (or Probabilistic).

The Qualitative PRA:

The WTO requires in the IPPC Standards that members should, on request, make available the rationale for phytosanitary requirements. Remember that the SPS measures should comply with the WTO principle of “minimal impact” i.e. They must be the least restrictive measures available which result in the minimum impediment to the international movement of people, commodities and conveyances.

Col. Locklear (Mr):

E-mail: colonel.Locklear@aphis.usda.gov

Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is in Aphis.

For more information on detector Dog use for foods, contact Dona West (Ms):

E-mail: donna.west@aphis.usda.gov Beagles. The last outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the US was in 1932. For an X-Ray machine with the appropriate software to detect foodstuff contact the appropriate US reps e.g. Cheryl French, APHIS Attaché in Pretoria.

Paul A Courneya, USDA, APHIS, Agriculturist.

Mission of the APHIS is: “Credible, reliable and responsive service”.

Dr. James P Davis, Senior Staff Veterinarian

E-mail: James.P.Davis@aphis.usda.gov

By 2007, the percentage of farm raised-fish would be increased. the US produces more farmed fish then pork farming. Any information on Acquaculture from Mr Davis.

Back from Maryland to the USDA Head Quarters in Washington, DC:

Sarah Hanson (Ms) International Trade Policy – Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA – Europe, Africa and Middle – East.

“An overview of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)” 2002:

Ms Hanson reiterated that AGOA provides an enhanced Generalised System of Preference, which adds over 1 800 new tariff line items. Eligibility of countries is reviewable annually and the GSP is extended to 30 September 2008. Mauritius will host the next AGOA session in January 2003. The government, every government’s responsibility for safety, health (including animal and plant) and environment is not negotiable.

Andre B Talley (Ms), Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist

E-mail: Tally@fas.usda.gov

WTO Enquiry Point for SPS measures.

Gave history of the WTO since the 1947 GATT.

E-mail: James.P.Davis@aphis.usda.gov

SPS Art 20; protection vs protectionist measures.

*Definition of an SPS measures – see a/annex B of the SPS Agreement.

NB: Emphasised the importance of active role by AGOA eligible countries in the CODEX, OIE and IPC.

Is the information you require necessary to meet the legitimate objectives? This even the use of an international standard might be challenged if and only if it is not designed to achieve the immediate and legitimate objectives.

Dispute resolution mechanism under the WTO:

Invoked as a last resort if consultation has not produced the desired results.

WEBSITES:

FDA	www.vm.cfsan.gov/rtrd/import.html
FSIS/USDA	www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/programs/import.htm
APHIS	www.aphis.usda.gov
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	www.endangered.fws.gov/contacts.html

Day 4

2002/08/01

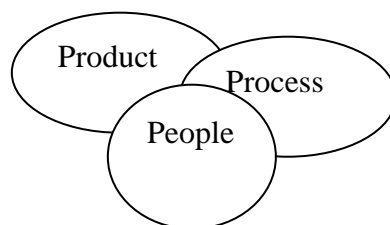
“Consensus Building”; **Nancy R. Rosenshine**

“CB” is a Process for community Building and decision making

Gail Bingham calls it an important tool for Resource management.

Consensus does not mean unanimous decision or full agreement. We have to on the same wavelength i.e. understand each other. Every area has its own alphabet soup own acronym.

See the following intersection three diagrams.



People developing their possess so that the products become sensible to others. You may disagree. Yes. But, you must be flexible and willing to give something up to read an agreement. You don't have to dismiss something because by who said it you don't like.

Thus, separate the issue from the personality!

Judging and Perceiving (J.P.)

Planner Spontaneous

BRAINSTORMING

Brainstorming is a means used to get the best solution by considering many possible solutions. Set time limit and stop when time is up.

No suggestion for a possible solution is wrong.

Post Brainstorming process

- Eliminate repeated suggestions
- Group like concepts together
- Discuss the narrowed remaining responses on the list
- Manage you time strictly by achieve efficiency.

Tips for Success

- ❖ Take on only what you can handle in the time allotted
- ❖ If you can't work efficiently with friends, then don't
- ❖ Make sure your goals are realistic
- ❖ Never lose site of the end product
- ❖ Know what you are looking for.

Consider the following Learners:

Visual – see – written, pictures

Auditory – hear

Kimesthetiz –do

The above group of learners demonstrate their diversity. In consensus building, there must be room for all of these learners.

-BREAK-

How do we achieve Consensus?

The Force Field Analyses

Field of Forces

Drivers

Enchancers

Barriers

Law

Regulation

Directive

Ethics

Values

Inspects and Pesticides

World Food shortage

Compare this group with the typical Bantu educated kid who is denied any visual aids

Training
Funding

1. Can agricultural research provide a solution to growing/world food shortage?
2. Is your research used in training centres?
3. Where does your research programme get its funding from?

At Beltsville Agricultural Research Centre-East, of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the USDA, Largest Agricultural Research Centre in the World:

330 US citizens
Post Docs
Visiting Scientists

Beltsville considered the national institute of plant health. There are 165 such centres nationally.

In California genetically modified tobacco used to produce medicine sold to the EU who are against GMOs.

Papal position – genetical engineering approved in agricultural products for scientific purposes. Once some part of a plant is altered then the entire plant is considered genetically altered.

*Biopreparat – Soviet Union cover name for biological warfare.

*Calling a genetically enhanced instead of a genetically modified.

NB: * Plant Variety Protection Act vs TRIPS Agreement Act 27(b)

* With the technology available at that time??

For the Plant Variety Protection Act and Regulations and Rules of Practice see:

www.ams.usda.gov/PVPO/PVPOACT/whole.pdf

Day 5

22/08/02

Charles Cooper:

The Act is the Food and Drug Cosmetics act (principal). The centre for Food Safety and applied Nutrition (CFSAN – responsible for all food safety issue except agricultural products.

Any food item, which is not safe for human consumption, must not be allowed on the food chain. IF discovered, the person (company) responsible for its supply must/shall recall the product.

Patrick C. Wilson, Ph.D. Associate Director, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean Eastern Europe and now EU Western Europe and www.FoodSafety.gov for Government Food Safety information

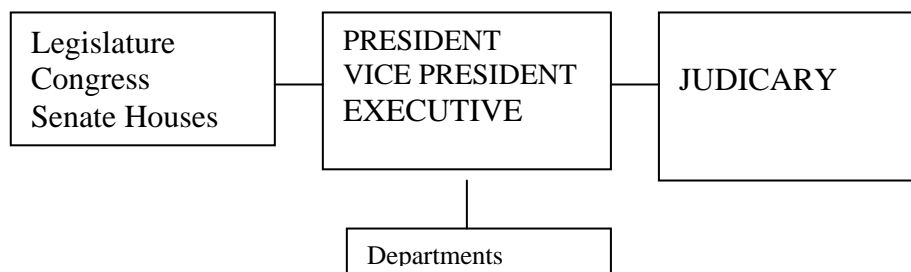
Website: www.fda.gov

E-mail: pwilson@oc.fda.gov

Principle concern with food is micro-biological contamination.

The national objective is to produce a safe product. If a product is found to be harmful or the labelling is misleading, not only that product but also the country is placed on an Alert list. Any product coming from that country, it is subject to examination. FDA is a domestic regulatory body concerned with public health of the consumer. Safe, wholesome and effective¹.

The food and Drug administration resorts under the Department of Health and Human Services. CFR (Code of Federal regulations) 21.



Beef; Poultry, Horticulture	USDA
All other foods including	FDA

FDA only regulates:

- products across inter-state commerce
- products entering the USA i.e. inter-state commed

FDA cannot be arbitrary and capricious, i.e. all actions must be based on the Regulations as codified in 2/CFRs

Jeff Brown:

Currently AHCCP is not extended to pasteurised foods.

Proposed new approach:

From checklist to “cause and effect”

HACCP is owned by the establishment

salmonella	Non-pathogenic – prevalence
	Pathogenic – zero tolerance

¹ Effectiveness refers to the uniformity of labelled content.

-LUNCH BREAK-**Back at USDA:**

Nancy Rosenshine (Ms)
Room 3017

- (i) Substantive learning Opportunities e.g. Technical Committees and Committees on Standardisation
- (ii) Method of dissemination

NB: Need to identify a Plan of Action on how information obtained during the Mission would be disseminated.

- Identify key stakeholders

- Agriculture
- Trade
- Standards making
- Finance (Customs)
- Transportation [of the goods]
- Policy Level Meeting is scheduled for September 2003 in Gaborone in order to benefit from the presence of the SADC Head Quarters.

2.2 Week 2**2002/08/05**

Day 1: New Orleans, Louisiana

FGIS New Orleans Field Office
Kerry F Petit [Piitii], Assistant Field Office Manager

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New Orleans Field Office was created in 1985 – Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, Covers 10 export facilities. Aflatoxin tests only done in corn. Automated Weighing System –first in New Orleans by the New Orleans Field Office.

Quality Assurance:

Employs 3x8 hours shifts adding up to 24 hours. The New Orleans Field Office employs 200 persons.

Visit the Website for more information.

Carl Jackson, Mycotixin/Protem Coordinator: Cal.jacson@usda.gov

Starlink gene-developed to kill insects and proved to be harmless to animals. Not [yet] approved for humans. Found its way into the food chain. Had to be isolated.

The gene is not harmful even to humans but its effect on digestion is slow digestion yet, currently illegal to allow the gene into the food chain.

Day 2: The Technical Service, Kansas City, Missouri 2002/08/06

Four Branches

- (i) Analytical Reference and Testing Service (ARTS)
- (ii) Board of Appeals and Review
- (iii) Biotech Unit
- (iv) Inspection system engineering Group

The Analytical Reference Testing Service

- screen for pesticide residence
- microbiological analysis

Biotech

- attempt to detect the protein gene etc. e.g. Starlink.

Final Day, Washington, DC

2002/08/09

Keith Jones, AMS/Organic Programmes (From the Egg Marketing services)

- Director of Programme development, USDA
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E-mail: keith.jones@usda.gov

Organic food is the fastest growing segment. Dairy is the greatest and fastest in the organic market. Consumer desire to make supply chain transparent and responsive to their concern i.e. the consumer wants to know where their food comes from.

Organic Principles:

- Building soil fertility
- Minimal use of non-renewable resources such as synthetic chemicals
- Minimal processing and additives
- Minimising pollution and damage to the environment
- Respect for animal welfare
- Working site and not against natural systems
- Elimination of GMOs

NB: Organic is a production claim and it is about how food is produced and handled. It is not a content claim. It does not represent that the product is “free” of . Organic is a marketing claim!

- The three Principle Display Panels (PDP) Labelling categories
 - “100% organic”
 - “Organic”
 - “Made with organic (ingredients)”

Definitions

- Audit Trail
- Commingling

see Website: www.ams.usda.gov/nop

The Three PDP Labelling Categories:

Mechanical or biological methods can be used to process an agricultural product intended to be sold, labelled or represented as:

- (i) “100% organic”
- (ii) “organic”; and
- (iii) “made with organic ingredients”

Heidi M. Reichert, Economist USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Shipper and exporter Assistance:

E-mail: Heidi.Reichert@usda.gov

*Website on how to ship Livestock:

www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/tmdsea.htm/shipper&exporting
www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/tmdsea.htm
www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/southafrica/

FSIS – food safety of meat; health of the employees.

BRAINSTORMING

*In the SADC, what is inhibiting trade in Agricultural products?

Brainstorming:

- standards – not known the
- capacity to apply requisite standards
- verification of the product’
- national quality system
- lack of involvement of the private sector: - in standardisation

*Lack of awareness of the importance of public/private sector partnership

-Lack of transparency inhibits knowledge on the nature of products.

Reports from Groups

1. Diseases
2. Standards
3. Commercial Development
4. Restrictive Requirements
5. Producers inability to adapt to change.

Plants

6. Environment
2. No sustainable plants for niche items
3. Lack of market awareness.

-LUNCH-

4. CONCLUSIONS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS (NAMIBIA)

It is recommended that this co-operation among the participating Southern African countries and between the Southern African countries and the USA [USDA] should not only be continued but also strengthened for a mutually beneficial relationship. Although personally my skills are those of a standardiser, the trip to the US opened my eyes and views to a variety of other related skills. The presence of technical persons in the group and the exposure to US experts in the field were invaluable. Seizing this opportunity to thank my colleagues from SADC and the services provided by our host in the US especially the ever ready assistance rendered by Jennifer Maurer.

5. CONTACT PERSONS

No separate list is attached as the contact persons are provided through out this Report.